



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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DEQ ISSUES PUBLIC ALERT TO BATON ROUGE COMMUTERS

DEQ will be monitoring the clean up of the Defense National Stockpile (Depot) located at 2695 N. Sherwood Forest Drive, just north of Choctaw Drive beginning tomorrow during the morning rush hour. The clean up is the result of a request made by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to the Department of Defense (DOD) to properly dispose of soils and sediments that do not meet residential standards before the land is returned to the East Baton Rouge Parish School District.

The depot was used by the DOD, the Army Corps of Engineers for processing and storage of materials, the U.S. Air Force as a storage facility, and by the Defense Logistics Agency for the storage of strategic metals. The east side of the depot was used for the storage of lead ingots and bauxite. The DOD planned to return the land in the east area to the owner, the East Baton Rouge Parish School District. Before returning the land, however, the DEQ required a site assessment. The environmental assessment showed that the soil where the lead ingots had been stored and the sediment in nearby drainage ditches were contaminated with lead. The clean up will cover an area of approximately 4 acres.

Two red mounds of uncontaminated bauxite close to the site are in the process of being removed by an outside source that is unrelated to the clean up. Bauxite is a non-hazardous material, used in the process of making aluminum, and the removal of the material is not regulated by DEQ.

The remediation of the site will take several weeks and DEQ will have its technicians present during all work activity to ensure adherence to the approved work plan and to the health and safety plans. The process will begin with the stabilization of the soils in place and will continue until all contaminated soil and sediments are removed. The stabilization process involves mixing the soil with a binding agent that makes it less likely to dissolve. Precautionary measures are in place and the area is required to remain damp while the work is being conducted. The stabilized soil will be dug up and placed in trucks while sediment removed from the drainage ditches will be placed in containers. Trucks and containers will be covered and soil will be disposed of at a proper facility. Air monitoring in points between the clean-up site and the nearest neighborhoods will also be conducted.

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